PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

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V

LECTURE LIV.

A GREAT GAMBLE.

WE have hitherto refrained from committing ourselves about the greatest politico-military gamble of history, namely the German invasion of RUSSIA. There were too few data about either motives, or

chances for opinions to be of much use to our readers. By the time this is in print, however, the great struggle will have been in progress about a month, and during that time, not only has the map changed a bit, but information from various interested sources in EUROPE has become available and justifies an attempt at a summary of the whole staggering affair as far as it has gone.

THE DREAM. In a previous notice, however, we did hazard the view that Hitler had not gone mad; that he was not flying so directly in the face of fortune as excited optimists made out; that, on the basis of facts of which the Nazis were in possession, the gamble was worth making. As we pointed out in "Sidelights" last week, the fruits of victory would be a German Continent stretching from VLADIVOSTOK to the Bay of Biscay, with access to resources, and ports to ship them from; which would place her remaining economic rivals in fief to GERMANY, gradually reduce them to instability and ultimately leave them more or less easy victims of a world-wide New Order; for though the two AMERICAS under U. S. A., or a battered and weary British Empire, or a brand-new Japanese Pacific Empire might continue to exist under a negotiated peace, they could not continue to thrive when world markets were captured by German manufactures, produced by sweated or even slave-labour and marketed by ubiquitous, efficient and state-subsidised German agencies such as we have begun to be familiar with. Such seems to be Hitler's dream, and though he may have been forced to alter the order of its accomplishment by attacking RUSSIA before he has destroyed BRITAIN, instead of afterwards, it is nevertheless a formed project in the minds of an unscrupulous and efficient group of leaders of an united, powerful, mesmerised and elated people.

REASON IN HIS MADNESS. Listening to general comment when the news of the invasion reached us, it was rather surprising to find how little acumen Hitler was credited with. Few papers or broadcasts seemed to realise what is becoming daily more plain, if only from his own propaganda, namely that he had passable reasons for doing what he did when he did. True, BRITAIN is not fooled by his trumpetings about a spiritual struggle between the New Order and the Demon of Communism. We know how little—ologies and—isms, causes and treaties, mean to Hitler's gang

when German *weltmacht* glitters on their horizon. Unfortunately not everybody subsists on BRITAIN'S sole aim, namely the utter destruction of the most monstrous tyranny that ever menaced civilization. There are quite a lot of nations and bits of nations who still hold themselves free to choose between the old and the new theories of establishing peace and plenty. Hitler knew perfectly well that among these his 'cause' against RUSSIA would find adherents—and, as we shall show, not only among peoples, but also among religions and creeds. So, in his usual Machiavellian way, he seems to have inspired his Propaganda Department somewhat thus :—

(*a*) For twenty years past, who has been RUSSIA'S friend? No one. Alone, disliked, mistrusted and insulted, she has writhed in her own revolutionary toils, inflating herself into a huge, malevolent *djinn* in order to keep herself in the rank of the Great Powers. "'It 'im 'ard!' E ain't got no pals!" as the street urchin was depicted saying in a famous Punch picture.

(*b*) After three or four years of hectic 'diplomacy' and two years of war, our stock suit of fustian labelled "new order" seems to be wearing a bit thin in parts. Scandinavians, Spaniards, Poles, Czhecks and Greeks are showing it too little respect. Shining armour is what they want. Let us preach a *jehad* against the old bug-bear of both EUROPE and AMERICA, Communism. Our dupes shall henceforth don the shining armour of the crusader!

THE DOPE AND THE DUPES.

Dr. Goebbels got to work. In GERMANY herself, in every occupied country by means of the controlled press, in many a 'neutral' land by the aid of Quislings and German consulates, there is now a spate of inspired articles on the 'holy war' theme. The "*Deutsche Diplomatische Korrespondentz*" quotes a long list of European nationalities who "have shown an understanding for this fight", followed by, "on the other side stands BRITAIN who in attacking GERMANY and blockading EUROPE, merely played the Bolshevik game......BRITAIN would cynically withdraw to her islands and leave EUROPE in its misery.....The peoples of EUROPE rally round that centre of power which alone can lead to the victory of the forces of reconstruction over the force of destruction."

So, too, the "*Nachtausgabe*": "To-day, Adolf Hitler is the head of a positive force which will shed its blood side by side with his soldiers to free EUROPE of Bolshevism."

Abroad, Walter Bastian, GERMANY's *Trans-ocean* correspondent writes from MADRID: "Spanish, Italian and German citizens, when they meet in trams, or restaurants, greet each other with the Fascist salute. All talk is about the necessity of a holy war against the international enemy."

The controlled press in occupied territories daily tries to give the impression that *all* European countries except the unspeakable English are now fighting in the common struggle to save European civilisation. The "*Boersen*" of Copenhagen, wrote on June 27th: "The struggle is in the common interest of EUROPE......DENMARK does not take part in arms but the common interest of EUROPE demands that DENMARK should not remain impasive." It then quotes the withdrawal of the Danish Legation from Moscow as the natural outcome of this sentiment!

OTHER DUPES. It is not therefore impossible that what we were apt to regard as an insane departure may result in the adhesion to the Tripartite Pact of quite a number of 'lukewarms'. FINLAND and RUMANIA are already fighting on Hitler's side. The masses in HUNGARY and SPAIN will, more likely than not, find themselves more in sympathy with him, or rather less in sympathy with us who are fighting on the side and in collaboration with the 'Bolshevists'. Both occupied and unoccupied SCANDINAVIA have always been more antagonistic to RUSSIA than to anyone else; some of the Latin American States, and certainly some of the communities of foreign stock in AMERICA whose confusion of thought and blurring of aim has been sedulously nursed while the issue was 'National Socialism' or a 'New Order', may find it easier to grasp an apparently clear-cut issue between Axis regimentation and Communist anarchy. Even in BRITAIN and AMERICA themselves, where the Finns were admired and encouraged both before the war and during their resistance to the Russian invasion, distress that we have been unable to make an ally of them, can be exploited.

In SPAIN, the power of the Falange must be considerably enhanced, for they have long regarded RUSSIA as their worst enemy, and they can at last join forces with the Army and the Catholic middle-classes, especially if the German-inspired suggestion that SPAIN should send volunteers to the Russian front bears fruit, in the policy of voluntary adherence to the Tripartite Pact, without having to be overrun by German armies to enforce it.

EVEN THE CHURCHES INVOKED. RUSSIA's official negation of God, and the persecution by the Bolshevik Government of the Eastern Church after the Revolution, are being played up by German propaganda for all they are worth. The attack on RUSSIA is now a fight for world-Christianity (save the mark!) against barbaric atheism. *Trans-ocean* reports (it may, of course, be quite untrue) that the German Episcopate has sent a mesage to all clergy and dioceses pointing out that the drive has "altered the character of the war". The fight against the Soviet Union is a fight for freedom of religion. The clergy are requested to preach sermons on these lines on the following Sunday.

So, too, in Catholic countries. On June 27th, the Vatican correspondent of the "*Gazette del Populo*" wrote: "The German and Italian declaration of war against the Soviet has been received with universal satisfaction by the Catholics, who see in it the possibility of banishing from the world a social and political outlook that is hostile to religion and family."

THE READY WEAPON. While his diplomatic, political and psychological advisers reported on these encouraging lines, Hitler had ready to his hand some 120 divisions (with a more than suitable proportion of mechanised divisions) stretched out from the Black Sea to the Baltic—well-fed, marvellously armed and straining at the leash. His *Luftwaffe* may have been defeated by the R. A. F. but in RUSSIA it would be out of their reach, and have only the numerous but doubtful Soviet squadrons to cope with. At sea, he might not have been able to hold a candle to the Royal Navy, but on land his armies had been everywhere victorious (whatever the cost!) and had acquired a reputation for invincibility. Moreover, his General Staff had invented a new method of land warfare to which the

Staffs of other Powers had not yet found a counter, the burst-through of heavily-armed motorised divisions following on the irresistible onslaught of tanks in mass. No need these days for rigid military convention about communications and reserves. The heavy armour and armaments of his Panzer Corps would enable them to hold on to the key positions far within the enemy's 'vitals' which they would gain by the weight and speed of their initial attack. Right! Let them strike—not necessarily all along the line, but with mighty spearheads directed to four main objectives, the loss of which should shatter the Russian morale, communications and, very possibly, the bulk of their fighting forces. On to LENINGRAD, MOSCOW, KIEV and ODESSA!

As to the opposition, however brave the Russian soldier, however uncountable his numbers, however numerous his planes and his tanks, he must suffer from several well-established drawbacks—political interference with military dispositions, poorness of rail communications, and as proved on so many occasions from 1904 (Russo-Japanese war) to 1939, (Russo-Finnish war) lack of expert staff-work and civilian organisation. Their leader himself was but a Stalin who had had to keep himself in power by periodical 'purges' of everyone who became expert in finance, in military science, in political leadership. There would be plenty of groups ready to get their own back on Joseph Stalin!

So Hitler struck. The thousands of miles to be traversed and shortage of roads would matter nothing to his mechanised might while the ground was hard. His Tanks and Panzers would break through, establish themselves against counter-attack; or turn north or south to meet other spearheads and thus envelop great armies of enemies left behind in the gaps. Then onwards to the capital cities, to the centres of industrial production, with swarming German hordes in their wake, until the grain and coal of the UKRAINE and the oil of the Caucasus was German, until the district Soviets were replaced by German puppets (though may be Russian in name) as *hetmans* or princes or counts, with Dr. Ley's Labour Office to put the people to work, and the Gestapo to see that they did it!

Whether the expected has happened, whether Hitler is satisfied after nearly a month of costly effort is problematical. Estimates of his original time-table are probably as unreliable as his figures of Russian

casualties, of territories captured, or of aeroplanes and tanks and divisions destroyed, but it seems agreed that big battles are being fought in localities well on the way to his original objectives; POLOTSK and MINSK and KAMENITZ and the Dneister are passed; LENINGRAD, SMOLENSK and KIEV are in sight. It is useless to try and estimate his losses. The Russians say a million, but what are a million men, and thousands of tanks and planes if the objective has been obtained within the scheduled time?

We are glad to admit that the 'if' is a big one. We admit that conflicting communiqués vary so extravagantly that it is impossible to form an opinion as to how the war is actually going on the long view. What we have been concerned with is the debunking of the theory that Hitler has necessarily committed the crowning psychological and strategic error of his life, and that therefore we, in BRITAIN, in the Empire, and in INDIA particularly, can now sit back and wait till he crashes.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PICTURE. Judging by his previous performances, and those of the Germans as a race, Hitler will fail—as fail ultimately he must—not for want of courage, efficiency, or power of leadership, but because of a constitutional weakness induced by the national tendency to hysterical self-confidence amounting almost to solipsism. Just as the Germans deliberately goaded the Americans into the last war to their cost—just as they can swallow their fantastic *Herrenvolk* theory (when their very strength lies in the negation of that theory, in their constantly exhibited craving to be driven and not to drive, to be mastered and not to master)—just as they recently deceived themsleves into thinking that Von Papen really had a hope of negotiating a peace with BRITAIN through Turkish intervention—so it is possible that Hitler has gravely underestimated not the immediate efficiency of the Russian administration, but the whole temper of the Russian people. Indeed, we have good ground for thinking he hås. If he has, and that dour, and undeceived nation has abandoned political theorising in favour of defence of their fatherland, then Hitler's time-table will be disarranged and he will lose this tragic relay-race, because the 'last leg' of the Allies, AMERICA, will be in the field, full of speed, power and stamina, before the spent and tired Germans can gather the resources they bank on for the last lap.

MISCALCULATIONS? The Russian battle-front is not just a line moving eastwards with the first terrific punch of the German offensive. It is much more like a chequered board, groups of squares changing from red to black, and sometimes from black to red, with wide gaps between them. The Germans have defied all traditional rules regarding protection of communications, and keep starting fresh and apparently isolated drives towards important objectives with the hope of paralysing Russian nerve-centres. Once, they report their spearheads converged at BALIYSTOK to envelop a Russian army said to number 100,000, but for the moment Panzer divisions thrust onwards 'into the blue.' It is probable however that they do count subsequently on turning north and south in the several sectors and enveloping the Russian armies as they did the French. The question is whether they will be able to do it!

We have reason to doubt it, when we examine the following deductions about the first month's fighting made by neutral military commentators (and in part confirmed by occasional and somewhat plaintive announcements of the BERLIN radio).

1. Stalin has ordered a rigid 'scorched earth' policy. His armies are not to wait to be cut off when German spearheads have burst through on their flanks. They are to retreat, and they are to destroy every mortal stronghold, supply dump, oil store, or field of grain that might be of use to the enemy. In short he proposes to *keep* his armies—on the retreat, if necessary, as far as the Urals themselves—*but to keep them*. One day, when the Germans are tired and far from home, the 'defeated' Russian armies will be pretty useful for a big counter-attack.

2. This policy seems practicable because instead of fighting grimly but hopelessly under divided commands and counsels, the whole nation seems to have been unified in bitter antagonism to the Nazi ideal, and to have followed their ruler's call to the robust patriotism which his famous speech substituted for all previous ideologies.

3. Hitler's staff is not the only one with ideas. The Russian commanders have adopted tactics which have caused the Germans enormous losses and disheartening surprise. One of these is to bite off the spearheads by timely concentration of mechanized forces. Tank

columns have been met by tank columns, producing 'cavalry' battles on a terrific scale. If the Russians can keep their *reserves* of tank formations and aeroplanes, (perhaps above all, of aeroplanes), more or less intact until the Panzer divisions can no longer thrust forward for want of oil and spares, they may have provided the answer to the dreaded German technique of modern warfare.

4. The German wireless occasionally complains of the annoying Russian habit of popping up, in well camouflaged fortifications, in rear of 'taken' positions. It really is unpardonable of them to demand another battle on positions that by all the rules are 'out of action', but it does point to the realisation by our new partners against Hitlerism that every part of the Red Army should go on fighting until Hitler's knell is sounded: that capitulation in any circumstances would help to seal their own doom; that therefore thay must fight and retreat, retake and fight again, back and back far into the infinite spaces of the U. S. S. R. until not only the German impetus but their very power of movement is paralysed.

The Russian soldier who "cannot be defeated but must be killed" (according to his Seven Years War reputation) knows this, and there is no doubt he is fighting magnificently.

The Commissars know this, the Comintern knows this, and Stalin knows this, because the only chance for the survival of their régime is that the Red Army or some part of it should go on fighting.

Meanwhile, what the whole world knows, including Hitler, is that time is the essence of this great struggle. If the Germans have not won before the onfall of winter, they have lost. So far they have gained a lot of territory, mainly 'scorched earth' we hope, but they have not put out of action any dangerous proportion of the Russian mechanized forces, they have not driven the Russian Air Force from the air, their parachute attacks have not only failed to demoralize but have been steadily mopped up by a wide-awake foe, and they have not yet had to face a counter-offensive of great strength such as the Russians have always had in the forefront of their strategy.

We close with some rather significant and unexpected remarks from German newspapers. The Russians, for instance, are now

admitted to be "the strongest and most powerful enemy of all". The papers also speak of "the modernity of Soviet equipment", and "the unshakeable obstinacy of the Russian defence." They even have to explain the slowness of the advance in the UKRAINE by a snowstorm! These strike an unfamiliar note in BERLIN war-bulletins. Nevertheless, we need not pin too much faith on German disappointments. What we should grasp is that the issue of the campaign, after each side has lost holocausts of men in the initial battles, depends on whether the Russians have been able to hold in reserve a sufficient proportion of men, tanks, guns and aircraft—again particularly aircraft—to deliver a well-timed counter-offensive against an exhausted enemy, whether it be west of Moscow or at the very foot of the Urals.

'V'

for VICTORY

'V' the first letter of 'Victory' has been adopted as the symbol of **VICTORY** for **BRITAIN, VICTORY FOR** the **DEMOCRATIC CAUSE.** It stands for the **VALIANT,** for **VIBRANT VICTORY** to **VANQUISH** the **VICIOUS VANDAL.**

'V' is not a stunt or a war of nerves. It is the mobilisation of the invisible army of millions of men and women who are determined to secure Victory. It marks the psychological moment for the revolt of the captive nations under Hitler.

In the words of Mr. Churchill, 'V' is 'the symbol of the unconquerable will of occupied territories to liberate Europe, and a portent of the fate awaiting Nazi tyranny'.

The mobilisation of the 'V' army commenced on 'V' Day at midnight on July 20, and was inaugurated by Col. Britton, the B. B. C.'s Mystery Speaker.

To join the army you have only to take a vow for victory and demonstrate by putting or making the 'V' sign whenever, wherever and however you can; or beat out the 'V' sound in Morse Code.

The movement has gone round the world. Enlist in hundreds, thousands and millions, for India's sake, for your hearth and home.

(*Note*:—For details see pp. 18 & 19 under 'Weekly War Summary').

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

17—7—41 to 23—7—41.

THE RUSSO-GERMAN WAR.

AT the end of four weeks of heavy and continuous fighting the German advance has proved slow, halting and terribly expensive in men and material. The Russian line has not been broken. The fact is that RUSSIA, cannot be put out of action by a few knock-out blows on vital points, as FRANCE was. RUSSIA's heavy industries are all dispersed in the interior, towards the east, beyond the reach of the invading force. Russian armies, when they withdraw, leave devastation and destruction behind—the very agencies which overcame Napoleon. Russians are tenacious and crafty. When German tanks penetrate, and advance, the rear is cut off. Russian snipers from invisible positions intercept the supply columns. Soviet fighters and dive-bombers contend with the enemy for air supremacy. The larger guerilla units intercept reinforcements, and the smaller bodies operate at every place with great nuisance value. 'Our losses in equipment, arms, and machines', says a German General, 'have been unusually great, and despite the successful advance they greatly exceed the capture of trophies'. 'Pin pricks in RUSSIA's skin', says the *New York Times* :— 'Nazi tanks go where the Mongol hordes once ruled but the mud and dust may swallow them up too. Hungry seekers for world dominion have crossed these plains many times. Their bones rest in Russian earth. Hitler may meet the fate of Tamerlane, Jenghis Khan and Napoleon.'

Germany's Difficulties.—There is no doubt of a snag somewhere in the Nazi campaign in RUSSIA. Shortage of oil may be inferred from the report that RUMANIA has given notice to TURKEY that the petrol export would be reduced. Since the outbreak of hostilities with RUSSIA the trans-ferry service with SWEDEN has suffered, and the Baltic transport has had to be diverted to HAMBURG and BREMEN. CONSTANZA having been put out of action by Soviet bombing, traffic in this region has been transferred to BURGAS in BULGARIA and to SALONIKA by rail. The closure of the Trans-Siberian railway has shut out supplies from ASIA, except through TURKEY. Hitler is reported to have asked ITALY and RUMANIA for more troops, in order to make up for shortage at the front.

The Stalin Canal.—Runs from LENINGRAD, alongside of Lakes Ladoga and Onega, to the White Sea. As soon as it became evident that in the event of GERMANY cleaning-up ESTONIA, and advancing upon LENINGRAD, the Soviet Baltic Fleet would be trapped, it was resolved to evacuate the Submarine part of the Fleet by this canal to the open waters of the Arctic and White Seas. This task has now been successfully accomplished, with the loss of a single submarine, in spite of fierce attacks on the Canal by the German Air Force.

The Present Situation:—According to the latest communiqués issued on July 23 from MOSCOW and LONDON 'the Russians are fighting furiously to stem the triple offensive on LENINGRAD, MOSCOW and KIEV.' A gigantic encircling movement in the elbow of the Dneiper River to trap Soviet troops is being attempted. In the UKRAINE the Russians have withdrawn from NOVOGRAD-VOLYNSK to JITOMIR. 'In their pincer-drive on LENINGRAD the Germans are still held up south-east of Lake Peipus', but from FINLAND they have started a new offensive between Lakes Ladoga and Onega. Fighting in the PETROZA-VODSK sector north-east of Lake Ladoga is now mentioned in Soviet reports for the first time. Stubborn fighting continues in the directions of PSKOV, POLOTSK, NEVEL, SMOLENSK and NOVOGRAD-VOLYNSK. According to a message from the MOSCOW correspondent of the *Associated Press* of AMERICA, SMOLENSK and KIEV are still in Russian hands.

Air-Raids on Leningrad and Moscow.—German aerial raids took place on LENINGRAD on 20th and 21st, and on MOSCOW on 21st and 22nd. While the Germans call the raid on MOSCOW 'devastating', Stalin's order of the day issued on the 22nd states that 'only isolated planes reached the capital'. What really happened may be inferred from a report from *Reuter's* special correspondent to LONDON, who describes the attack as a 'medium *Blitz*'. He states, that the raid suggests that the Germans have underrated MOSCOW'S defences, and that the German bases are still too distant for effective large-scale raiding. For the rest, he continues, 'the Germans dropped the familiar flares, and the Russian anti-aircraft defences contributed greatly to the fire-works.'

Hitler's European Front.—Hitler's huge hoax to raise an European front against Bolshevism has failed miserably. In response to the call for volunteers only 38 persons have till now registered in NORWAY and 5 or 6 in FRANCE. Even in SPAIN it has proved a wash-out.

THE FAR-EASTERN HORIZON.

War-clouds are gathering over the Far-Eastern horizon. On July 16, the Konoye Cabinet resigned suddenly, in order, it was said 'to make room for a stronger Government to cope with the national and international situation'. After a 48-hour crisis, a new Cabinet described as a 'Watch and Wait Cabinet' emerged, with Prince Konoye reinstated as Premier for a third time, but without Matsuoka. Admiral Tejiro Toyoda, the new Foreign Minister, declared that there was 'no basic change in JAPAN'S basic foreign policy'. Speculation is divided as to the significance of this latest Cabinet reshuffle. The inclusion of reputed moderates and businessmen is supported to be a move on the part of JAPAN to disentangle itself from its European commitments, while the presence of a number of generals and admirals has a militarist tendency. Matsuoka's resignation is a puzzle. As he is the author of both the Tripartite Pact and the Russian Agreement, his withdrawal may mean a reversal of either the Axis or the Soviet friendship or of both. Some predict a northern drive, and some a southern drive, suspending the 'Chinese incident' for a while.

Meanwhile the sudden departure of Admiral Decoux, Governor-General of INDO-CHINA to HANOI, the seat of the Japanese Military Mission forebodes mischief. Is INDO-CHINA going to become the SYRIA of the Far-East? The Japanese newspaper *Nichi Nichi Shimbun*, in true Nazi fashion, has already raised the bogey of British intervention, accusing both GREAT BRITAIN and AMERICA of having started an anti-Japanese campaign in THAILAND and INDO-CHINA. Prince Konoye has suddenly cancelled a Press Conference he had himself called, without giving reasons. Japanese ships in American waters have been recalled, and a censorship has been laid over all Japanese radio and cable communications. According to the latest reports, JAPAN has sent an ultimatum demanding the use of air and naval bases in French INDO-CHINA, but VICHY denies it.

Categorical denials of Japanese allegations of any intended British action in INDO-CHINA have been broadcast by the SINGAPORE radio.

Speaking at SAN FRANCISCO, as early as July 18, Lord Halifax British Ambassador at WASHINGTON, defined the British policy by stating that it was the settled policy of BRITAIN and the UNITED STATES

to do all in their power to preserve peace in the Pacific. He saw no reason for an Anglo-Japanese clash, though BRITAIN would not allow any of her interests in the Pacific to be ignored.

THE BATTLE OF GERMANY.

While the Germans are expending huge quantities of military material and man-power on the eastern front, simultaneously the R.A.F. is attacking German industrial centres and communications on the west. This drain on one front coupled with the pounding on the other is the beginning of the Battle of GERMANY. The following is a list of places attacked, and the number of raids, for the first three weeks of intensified offensive :—

Germany.

Bremen 9, Kiel 5, Wilhelmshaven 4, Bremerhaven 3, Vegersack 1, Cuxhaven 1, Emden 5, Hamburg 1, Cologne 11, Dusseldorf 1, Duisburg 4, Hanover 1, Oldenburg 3, Osnabruck 2, Bielefeld 2, Essen 2, Magdeburg 1, Rheine 1, Munster 4, Dortmund I, Munchen Gladbach 1, Frankfurt 1, Krefeld 1, Rheydt 1, Hamm 1, Leuna 1.

Occupied Territory.

Boulogne 7, Dunkirk 4, Rotterdam 4, Ostend 1, Cherbourg 4, Brest 4, Le Havre 1, Calais 2, Den Helder 3, Treschelling 1, Lorient 1, Kristiansand 1, Haugesund 2, Haazebrouck 3, Bethune 4, Comines 2, Lens 1, Lille 5.

Between June 16 and July 10, 2,000 tons of bombs were dropped over the RUHR area, COLOGNE had 1,000 bombs and BREMEN 500 tons To meet the R. A. F. menace German fighter squadrons, it is reported, have been brought back from the eastern front, weakening the offensive there. During the week HAMBURG, BREMEN, DUSSELDORF, the Channel Ports PALERMO, SICILY and NAPLES were the targets. But more is to follow. As Lord Halifax declared on July 19, 'Hitler will know more bombing during the next 6 months than he has ever known before, because we will be able to give Hitler back as good, or better, than he has given us.'

WAR AT SEA.

The Battle of the Atlantic.—Speaking on July 16, Mr. A. V. Alexander, the first Lord of the Admiralty warned his hearers of the possibilities of 'a long war', with the 'grimmest part yet to come.' The Royal Navy has already achieved the great task of giving safe

transport to the British armies, equipment and supplies bound for EGYPT, and to British shipping across the Atlantic. But the Battle of the Atlantic, he emphasised, 'is continuous. It is not a battle which flares up and dies away. The situation is always difficult, and to relax for a moment would be fatal.' There are several encouraging factors however. Escort ships have increased lately. Merchant ships are now better armed, the co-operation of the coastal command of the R. A. F. and the U. S. A. flying-boats protect the trade routes much more than before, and R. A. F. bombers and fighters attack German occupied bases, shipping and communications, upsetting the enemy's plans.

Further, the Royal Navy and Air Force are taking a heavy toll of German and Italian merchant-ships and convoys.

AMERICAN PRODUCTION.

A ship a day keeps the enemy away.—One ship a day has had its keel laid in American yards during the 40 days ended July 10. Economists estimate that by April the U. S. will out-produce GERMANY in planes and tanks. Mr. Harry Hopkins, Supervisor of the U. S. Lease and Lend Act operations said in LONDON on July 18 :—

'We are launching the biggest merchant-ship building programme ever undertaken by any country. We are going to build enough ships to bring the goods to the UNITED KINGDOM, and to every theatre in the world where the Democracies are fighting Hitler.'

'We have launched a vast programme of aeroplane production, which is moving ahead very rapidly now.'

'We are convinced that between ENGLAND and AMERICA we can build far more of these planes per month than GERMANY, and better ones.'

'The whole production effort of BRITAIN and AMERICA must be to supply munitions of war sufficient to overwhelm the Fascist dictators. That is the only purpose—to whip these fellows.'

Extension of Army Active Service Period in U. S.—President Roosevelt has asked Congress to remove the limit of 12 months placed on the service of Selectees, Guardsmen and Reservists in the U. S. Army, and in doing so has pointed out unreservedly that it was necessary to maintain the army intact, as the international situation had definitely

worsened and AMERICA was in greater danger than a year ago. The German move in EUROPE, ASIA and AFRICA, he stressed, had been conducted according to a time schedule, 'throwing treaties and pacts to the winds.' AMERICA should be on her guard. Furthermore, AMERICA had a distinct responsibility to protect the countries of the Western Hemisphere from assault. To weaken the U. S. army at this juncture would be 'an act of bad faith' to the American neighbours.

Expulsion of German Minister from Bolivia.—On the discovery of a Nazi *putsch* in BOLIVIA, the Bolivian Government has declared a state of siege through out the Republic, and ordered Herr Ernest Wendler, the German Minister to leave the country within 24 hours. Mr. Sumner Welles, speaking on behalf of the U. S. Government has promised full support to BOLIVIA in the event of any international complications arising out of the attempted Nazi coup.

Agent-General for India in U. S.—In the special circumstances created by the War, there will be a reciprocal exchange of representatives between the U. S. and INDIA. The Hon. Sir Girja Shanker Bajpai has been appointed INDIA's Agent-General in the U. S, and Mr. Thomas Murray Wilson has been nominated Commissioner to INDIA. While in this office they will rank as Ministers.

FAR-EAST.

Mr. Alfred Duff Cooper, Ex-Minister of Information, proceeds to the Far-East on behalf of the British War Cabinet, to report on the co-ordination of military, administrative and political work in the Far-East.

INDIA.

Expansion of the Viceroy's Executive Council.—*The National Defence Council*:—The Viceroy's Executive Council has been enlarged, with a non-official majority of 8, and a National Defence Council of 30 representing Indian States, Labour, Commerce, Industry and Military and Minority interests has been newly set up. The latter body will meet once every two months *in camera*, under the Chairmanship of the Viceroy, and will act as a liaison between the Provinces and the Centre to co-ordinate war effort. These changes, essentially non-political, and non-communal in character, are intended to secure 'the efficient Government of the Country at War'. Though they have been made

'within the frame-work of the constitution, and without prejudice to the future constitutional settlement', the measures, as Mr. L. S. Amery has pointed out, mark 'a change in the spirit, if not in the letter of the Constitution', and the Viceroy will now have a War Cabinet with a marked majority of Indian public men.

'V' for Victory.

On July 20, originally fixed by the Germans for a general holiday, the 'V for Victory' Campaign was started by Col. Britton, the B. B. C. Mystery Man. Some say he is in the Bureau of Military Intelligence, some that he is Air Adviser in the Foreign office, and others that he is Foreign Adviser to the Air Ministry—the B. B. C. will disclose nothing.

The 'V' Campaign is not a stunt or a 'war of nerves'. It is the enlistment of all men and women all over the world who wish well of freedom, and desire the end of Nazi tyranny. The psychological moment has arrived for the revolt, especially of the captive people against Hitler.

'V' is the symbol of democratic victory; it stands for the Valiant, for 'Vibrant Victory to Vanguish the Vicious Vandal'.

At midnight on July 20, Col. Britton the Mystery Speaker inaugurated the movement from the B.B.C., reading out a message from Mr. Churchill, which said, 'V is the symbol of the unconquerable will of the Occupied Territories to liberate EUROPE, and a portent of the fate awaiting Nazi tyranny'

Col. Britton speaking on the radio declared that the mobilisation of the 'V' army—EUROPE's invisible army of many millions had started. The enlistment consists in taking a vow to defeat the Nazis, and to demonstrate adherence to the great cause by putting the sign of 'V' wherever possible, and to beat out the 'V' sound in Morse Code.

The 'V' Campaign has proved a great success. Everywhere from one end of the world to the other the 'V' symbol has been splashed in all places in every way. Railway stations, lorries, menu cards, buses, trams bore the victory sign. It has spread from EUROPE to AFRICA and the two AMERICAS, where the Press and the Radio have joined with the people in making the 'V' Day a complete success.

What is more, it has caught on in the German occupied territories particularly. In AMSTERDAM, ROTTERDAM, and the HAGUE banners flew bearing the symbol. In BELGIUM, cars, lorries and locomotives were chalked with the symbol. In PARIS 'V' streamers flew over the Eiffel Tower, and in OSLO the same streamers were displayed everywhere with the same symbol. In PRAGUE, CRACOW and WARSAW 'V' was marked on walls, in cinemas, across newspapers, buses and tram cars.

Bewildered by the movement, the Germans have launched a campaign claiming 'V' as a sign of victory for themselves!

In GERMANY, as the *New York Mirror* has remarked, 'V' stands rather for 'Von Ribbentrop, Von Papen, Vulgarians, Violence, Victims, Verboten, Vermin.'

But to avoid discomfiture Dr. Goebbels says that 'V' stands for 'Viktoria' meaning 'victory.' 'Viktoria' is a word foreign to GERMANY; the German word for victory is 'seig.'

R. A. F. and Russian Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied Territories.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
14—7—41. (Monday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
MORNING :—			
	Docks, shipping, a railway station, locomotive sheds and a factory at CHERBOURG.	...	A 6,000 ton ship set on fire. Railway station damaged. Fires started.
	Docks, shipping and railway yards at LE HAVRE.	6 planes. 2 pilots safe.	Damaged. 8 planes.
	Railway yards at HAZEBROUCK ...		...
AFTERNOON :—			
	A small convoy off the DUTCH FRISIAN Islands.	No loss.	3 ships hit. 1 plane.
NIGHT :—			
	Docks at BREMEN ...	...	Fires started.
	Industrial areas in HANOVER ...	...	Damaged.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
14—7—41.	(Monday.)—*cont.*		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.—*cont.*		
	Docks at ROTTERDAM ...	...	...
	Several other targets in North-west GERMANY.	...	...
	ITALY.		
	The Italian port of MESSINA ...	...	...
	GREECE.		
	Aerodromes at ELEUSIS and HASSANI.	...	Large fires started.
	CRETE.		
	Aerodrome at HERAKLION ...	...	Damaged.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	BENGHAZI, DERNA and **BARDIA** ...	...	...
	Military objectives in GONDAR area.	...	...
	(By Russian planes).		
	EASTERN FRONT.		
	Aircraft on the ground, aerodromes and enemy mechanised units throughout the entire front.	...	...
	RUMANIA.		
	BUCHAREST ...	...	...
15—7—41.	**(Tuesday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	NIGHT :—		
	Industrial objects in North-west GERMANY.	...	1 plane.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Aerial battle off the LIBYAN Coast.	...	1 vessel sunk.
	(By Russian Planes.)		
	EASTERN FRONT.		
	Mechanised units of the Enemy.	...	...
	RUMANIA.		
	The oil fields of PLOESTI.	...	Big fires started.
16—7—41.	**(Wednesday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	MORNING :—		
	An enemy supply ship off the North-west coast of FRANCE.	...	Hit and sunk.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
16—7—41.	(Wednesday.)—*cont.*		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE—*cont.*		
AFTERNOON :—			
	Enemy shipping in the docks at ROTTERDAM.	...	4 big ships and 2 small vessels hit. Fires started.
	Warehouses and stores at ROTTERDAM.	...	...
EVENING :—			
	An enemy tanker in the ENGLISH CHANNEL.	...	Sunk.
	Two supply ships off the west Coast of FRANCE.	...	Damaged.
	An enemy supply ship off the Coast of NORWAY.	...	Sunk.
NIGHT :—			
	Industrial areas at HAMBURG.	...	Fires and explosions started.
	Other military objectives in North-west GERMANY.	...	...
	Docks and warehouses at BOULOGNE.	3 planes.	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	A convoy of enemy shipping off the TRIPOLITANIAN Coast.	...	1 ship completely destroyed and another damaged.
	Enemy ship, tanker and the harbour at TRIPOLI.	...	Tanker sunk.
	Quays, coal stores, railway workshops and sheds at BENGHAZI.	...	Fires started.
	Barracks, power station, military garages at DERNA.	...	Fires and explosions started.
	BARDIA ...	...	...
	(By Russian planes.)		
	EASTERN FRONT.		
	Aircraft on the ground and enemy mechanised units along the whole front.	23 planes for both July 15th and 16th.	98 planes for both July 15th and 16th.
17—7—41.	**(Thursday).**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
17—7—41.	(Thursday.)—*cont.*		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE—*cont.*		
	Patrolling over the ENGLISH CHANNEL.	6 planes.	9 planes.
	NIGHT:—		
	Industrial areas in COLOGNE and elsewhere in the RHINELAND.	...	Fires started everywhere.
	A ship (4,000 tons) at ST. NAZAIRE.	...	...
	Enemy aerodromes in occupied territory.	1 plane.	...
	ITALY.		
	The Naval base and warships at PALERMO.	...	One warship hit.
	SICILY.		
	Aerodromes at GERBINI and AUGUSTA	...	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The port at DERNA ...	...	Fires and explosions started.
	The harbour and shipping at BARDIA.	No loss.	
	(By Russian planes).		
	EASTERN FRONT.		
	Enemy positions on the whole front.	6 planes.	39 planes.
18—7—41.	**(Friday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	Shipping off the FRENCH Coast ...	3 planes.	1 plane.
	A supply ship (6,000 tons) off DUNKIRK.		Sunk.
	NIGHT :—		
	Industial targets in North-west GERMANY.	...	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The harbour and shipping at BENGHAZI and TRIPOLI.	...	...
	GONDAR ...	...	Damaged.
	(By Russian Planes).		
	EASTERN FRONT.		
	Motorised and Mechanised units and aircraft on their aerodromes along the whole front.	...	32 planes.
	FINLAND.		
	Military objectives in FINLAND ...	2 planes.	Heavily damaged.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
19—7—41. (Saturday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	An enemy convoy off the DUTCH Coast.	...	4 ships destroyed.
	The Docks at DUNKIRK ...	5 planes.	4 planes.
	Another convoy off NORDERNEY ...	...	2 ships damaged, 2 ships burnt.
	An enemy tanker off the FRENCH Coast.	...	...
NIGHT :—			
	The Industrial areas of HANOVER and other places in RHINELAND.	...	Big fires started.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Military Headquarters, Government buildings and railway sidings at BENGHAZI.	2 planes.	Fires and explosions started.
	Power station and military objectives at TRIPOLI.		Power station blown up.
	SICILY.		
	The Aerodrome at CATANIA ...	...	No loss.
	(By Russian Planes).		
	EASTERN FRONT.		
	Enemy positions, Mechanised units and aircraft on the ground along the enitre front.	...	...
20—7—41. (Sunday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Offensive sweeps over Northen FRANCE and the ENGLISH CHANNEL.	...	...
	An Enemy tanker, and an escorting anti-aicraft vessel off the Coast of FRANCE.	...	Tanker sunk.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
20—7—41.	(Sunday.)—*cont.*		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.—*cont.*		
	NIGHT :—		
	Industrial targets in the RHINELAND including COLOGNE.	...	Many fires started.
	Docks at ROTTERDAM ...	...	...
	Offensive sweeps over Enemy aerodromes in FRANCE.	...	Damaged.
	Patrolling over the ENGLISH CHANNEL.	...	...
	Factory buildings at AACHEN ...	1 plane.	...
	ITALY.		
	The harbour and railway sidings at NAPLES.	...	Explosions followed fire.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Dock installations at BENGHAZI ...	...	...
	(By the Russian planes).		
	EASTERN FRONT.		
	Aerial combats over enemy aerodromes.	...	25 planes.
	BLACK SEA.		
	An enemy torpedo boat in the Black Sea.	...	Sunk.

ENEMY Air Raids over BRITAIN, BRITISH Territories and RUSSIA.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R.A.F. and Allied Air losses and results of air bombardment.
15—7—41.	(Tuesday).		
	BRITAIN.		
	No air activity anywhere.		
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	CYPRUS ...	...	No damage.
	RUSSIA.		
	Air battles over the entire front. ...	52 planes.	24 planes.
16—7—41.	(Wednesday.)		
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY :—		
	South Coast of ENGLAND ...	1 plane.	No damage.
	NIGHT :—		
	A few points in East and South-east ENGLAND.	...	Damage slight and casualties few.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy air-craft losses.	R.A.F. and Allied Air losses and results of air bombardment.
17—7—41. (Thursday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	NIGHT :—		
	A town in North-east ENGLAND ...	...	Slight damage.
	A few other places in ENGLAND ...	...	...
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA ...	2 planes.	2 planes.
	RUSSIA.		
	SMOLENSK ...	...	...
18—7—41. (Friday.)	**BRITAIN.**		
	DAY :—		
	South Coast of ENGLAND ...	2 planes.	...
	NIGHT :—		
	One place on the eastern side of the country.	...	...
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	CYPRUS ...	1 plane.	No damage.
19—7—41. (Saturday.)	**BRITAIN.**		
	NIGHT :—		
	Two points in the MIDLANDS ...	...	No damage or casualties.
	EGYPT.		
	ALEXANDRIA ...	...	1 killed and 7 injured.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	British Shipping off the North African Coast.	...	Driven away.
	RUSSIA.		
	Soviet Naval units off ESTHONIAN Islands.	...	...
	Towns on the SOVIET-FINNISH frontier.	...	...
20—7—41. (Sunday.)	**BRITAIN.**		
	No air activity.	...	...
	RUSSIA.		
	LENINGRAD.	11 planes.	Slight damage.
21—7—41. (Monday).	**BRITAIN.**		
	No air activity anywhere in BRITAIN.	...	...
	RUSSIA.		
	LENINGARD.	8 planes.	4 planes.
	MOSCOW.	22 planes.	Slight damage and a few casualties.

SIDE LIGHTS.

VARIOUS OPINIONS. Friends have written some nice things about our Anniversary number, and wished us all luck for......? Well, that is the point. No one seems to agree as to how long they hope the Bulletin will continue! One correspondent hopes that our last issue will be the last 'anniversary' number, but wonders......! A second correspondent hopes that at least there will be no need for it in 1943. One optimist says he doesn't think the war will still be on in mid-July next year. And what do we think? Well, it is our policy not to speculate, therefore we say that the war will go on not so much as until "victory is ours" (who will snatch 'victory' or what will victory be worth when this universal maelstrom calms down?) as until everything that Hitler and Nazism hope for and stand for is "purged from the earth". There is no intermediate 'end', and the completion of a nasty job may take some time......just about the same length of time that this humble periodical will go on describing the process. So now you know exactly!

* * *

A NEW SYRIA. This Syrian business is really very satisfactory. The papers this morning talk of Allied forces about to enter ALLEPPO, where it may be presumed they will get the same warm welcome they received in BEIRUT. Apart from the useful strategic advantages of holding places like DAMASCUS, BEIRUT, ALLEPPO, and the half dozen excellent airfields between PALESTINE and TURKEY, it is obvious that the Syrians as a body *wanted* us. They were certainly not behind VICHY, they fear and hate the Hun, and they did not want their country turned into a general battlefield, with all the hardships that this would impose on their town and village populations, and on their business and political intercourse with the outside world.

There were people heard to complain of the slowness of the Allied occupation, but after all, only one month was taken in overcoming a professionally expert defence of highly difficult terrain by French and French Colonial forces, who thought it due to their military oath to withstand us, and this, taken with the comparatively negligible losses to combatants or inhabitants, is surely a great tribute to the political sagacity, as well as the military efficiency, of Generals Wilson and Catroux.

The Syrians, outside the blockade now of the Germans and their allies, can settle down to trade and prosperity as an independent people.

The Turks are pleased because their land and sea communications are safeguarded, and their position *vis-a-vis* the Axis strengthened.

INDIA is pleased because their own outer defences at SUEZ have had a serious risk disposed of.

Other mid-Asiatic peoples can again compare BRITAIN's genuine interest in peace, security and independence for the Muslim countries there, with the Axis policy of making war there in order to dominate.

The growing importance of General De Gaulle's movement is emphasised by the fact that of the 2,500 casualties, a full half were Free Frenchmen.

* * * *

THE GREAT LAND BATTLE. Elsewhere in this number you will find the German invasion of RUSSIA discussed at some length, so reference here can be brief. The German line—or rather some of their thrusts—undoubtedly advances. SMOLENSK they now claim, (but the Russians deny that it has been taken) and talk of the early fall of LENINGRAD. But they no longer talk of the Russians being beaten in ten days, or in three weeks, and their troops complain bitterly that they were misled about the strength and efficiency of the Russian Air Arm. What their casualty bill will be for this full month of bitter fighting one can hardly guess, but one can hazard that since it is not a discontented rabble whose land they are trying to overrun, but an united patriotic people, not ill-trained, inexperienced and ill-staffed troops fighting them, but a modern, mechanised and well-equipped army in size equal to, and in reserves bigger than, their own, there may well be several more months of this hideously costly *blitzkrieg*, out of which, when the days shorten and the thermometer drops, most of the *blitz* will have been taken out of it, if it has not been already.

LITVINOV. On July 8, M. Litvinov, who has not spoken in public since his retirement from the Russian Foreign Office in April '39, broadcast to the Russian people. When he was Foreign Minister he stood, for years, for a policy of collaboration with the League of Nations and the democracies. Then he went suddenly, and those who had hopes from RUSSIA feared the worst. Stalin had apparently decided to seek for better terms from GERMANY than he could get from the west—and got the 'Russo-German pact'. M. Litvinov's re-emergence on the political stage, broadcasting on precisely the same stirringly patriotic note as Stalin, is therefore a significant affair.

Within a short time of that broadcast, Mr. Churchill told the nation and the world unequivocally that the Russians were now our "Allies". Apart from the confidence such a deliberate phrase must give the democracies—for would a statesman of such eminence and wisdom publish an alliance with a power which was likely to be shortly defeated ?—his whole tone matched admirably M. Litvinov's "Our aim will be to strike together, simultaneously and witout respite." Not much sign of the success of Hitler's attempt to split the democracies with the Communism bogey, here !

THE JAPS' DILEMMA. If Churchill and Roosevelt and Hitler—using these names generically for their peoples—do not know what to make of the latest Japanese political sensations, how should we? Prince Konoye resigns—Prince Konoye forms a new government. The Army people say that the Army policy thereby gains. The industrialists—who grouse at army extravagances and the country's financial position—believe that they will now have more say. And Mr. Matsuoka has a cold, and someone has to call at his house for his resignation, and the latest lists do not yet show his name as a minister. Nor do the papers say whether he sent Hitler his own autographed photo, as he did to Stalin and Molotov? Altogether is it very confusing! Let us try and sort things out a bit.

It appears that there are two sharp goads at the posteriors of the government, each pricking in an opposite direction. There is the German goad, which has been pressed harder and harder lately, towards assisting the Axis by making war in the FAR EAST against RUSSIA. And there is the Expansionist, the "New Order in the East" goad which urges them to cut losses in CHINA, let Germany's immediate requirements go hang, and start a southward thrust for additional empire. The net result of these painful pressures so far has been such epochmaking official announcements of policy (?) as that "JAPAN must be vigilant and prepared".

Surely the second of the suggested alternatives is the more likely. The Japanese already have a foothold in FRENCH INDO-CHINA. They are now taking about early 'concessions' in CAMRAN and Camran Bay. They can extend their influence over THAILAND, and above all they can make use of a powerful fleet, which unlike the armies is not war-weary. They can do most of this, moreover, without coming into actual conflict with AMERICA—yet!

Intervention in the north, on the other hand, however obliging to the Germans, largely means increasing the armies in CHINA, besides taking on a large and expert new enemy; it means grave risk—nay, almost certainty—of war with U. S. A. who are openly using the port of VLADIVOSTOK for their munition ships to RUSSIA, ships which JAPAN would be called on to stop by their German friends! Even victory would mean for JAPAN only a few more barren, bitterly cold provinces, (and the Japanese hate cold countries) which would be about as much use to them as MANCHUKUO (which has had to be colonised by 30,000,000 Chinese!)

Later. We are told to day that the new Cabinet will again be a "wait and see" affair—minus the much-travelled Mr. Matsuoka! The 'waiting' is presumably until the issue of the Russo-German Battle is clearer, and the "seeing" may be mainly round about FRENCH INDO-CHINA and THAILAND, with a wary eye on SINGAPORE and the N. E. I. If, which God forbid, the

Battle should result in a German victory, the Japs will be the better able to risk a throw at our great Eastern Gateway; if the Russians deny the Germans that victory, JAPAN will be in a slightly better bargaining position in regard to RUSSIA but will take all the greater care not to force hostilities with either BRITAIN or AMERICA.

* * * * *

ICELAND IMPLICATIONS. Strange as it may seem, AMERICA has become strategically an island! Her security, like BRITAIN's, has become dependent upon sea-power. In order to win, the Germans *must* turn the Atlantic into a German lake. American armed forces, on the other hand, are now in ICELAND, only six hundred miles from SCOTLAND! Consequently, they *have* to preserve the "freedom of the seas" for the sake of their own security, while Hitler seeks to retain the right to make war on all merchant shipping! The Atlantic is not big enough to hold these two conflicting contentions. Either Hitler accepts the American doctrine, and loses the Battle of the Atlantic, or AMERICA must withdraw from ICELAND, allow the British lifeline to be cut, and expose herself to deadly peril.

These are the plain facts of the case. True, Roosevelt has not yet ordered the American Navy to clear the Atlantic of the Axis menace (as Colonel Knox and others have demanded), but with the move into ICELAND, he has appreciably nearer that position.

* * * * * *

FURTHER SOUTH. Forestalled in the North by the American counter to their warlike preparations in NORWAY, the Germans seem to be paying considerable attention to the South Atlantic bases of DAKAR and CASABLANCA, as a diving-board for a thrust at, shall we say, BRAZIL. The U. S. A. are doubtless watching this tendency as closely as we are, but there is an interesting suggestion in the British Press that we should lease them a port somewhere to the south of GAMBIA, much as we did with some West Indian stations, in order to offset any VICHY treachery over DAKAR. There seems to be a good deal to be said for this, but so far we only hear of the States sending supplies to French NORTH AFRICA (under, it is true, strict American supervision), in the hope of encouraging Weygand not to yield too easily to VICHY's demands for full collaboration with the Axis. An American base within striking distance of DAKAR would seem to be an even better inducement!

AIR WAR ON TWO FRONTS.

STRENGTH OF RUSSIAN AND GERMAN AIR ARMS.

SOVIET IDEAS AGAINST NAZI TECHNOLOGY.

EFFECT OF WIDESPREAD DISPERSION OF OBJECTIVES.

By

Oliver Stewart (In a recent B. B. C. Talk).

THERE has never been a theatre of war in which the collection of full and accurate information has been so difficult as in that huge front from Finland to the Black Sea where Germany has made her attack on Russia. The distances are so great, and the lines of communication so scarce, that we cannot expect to be accurately informed about what is happening, except after a pretty big time lag.

But a study of the basic problems facing the two air forces provides some remarkable sidelights on the battles that are now going on.

We have on this front two immense air forces. **In numbers, I doubt if there is much to choose between them.** The Russian Air Force, whatever the technical quality of its machines, is chock full of ideas. In fact **in the use of aviation in war, the Russians have looked further ahead than any other country in the world.**

Many of the German methods are based on ideas which originated in Russia. The whole concept of air carrying as used in military operations is essentially Russian. Parachute troops and air-borne tanks owe their primary development to Russian inventiveness.

In the building of huge aeroplanes, the Russians have never shown any of that timidity which has held back most other countries. Russian aviation has produced more ideas than any other aviation. Many of them were looked on at first as impracticable. But now some of them have been proved in action.

So the line up of the two air forces seems to the distant observer to be a line up of a brilliantly inventive aviation on the Russian side, and a well developed aviation on the German side; ideas against technology. That seems to be a rough generalization of the position. And now for some of the special influences at work on this new battlefield.

In most parts of the world where German aircraft have been in action hitherto, the main areas of attack have been densely populated or relatively small in size. On the Russian front, cities and centres of population are more widely scattered and the distances are very great.

Both sides must be working with long lines of communication, and that has a marked effect on the operations of a modern air force. Every air squadron has to be ministered to by many special appliances and a lot of elaborate apparatus. Some of that equipment can be carried by air, but some still has to go over land.

In order to sustain an air attack on a large scale there must be a steady flow of supplies to the advance bases. The Germans have shown themselves extremely competent in bringing up supplies, even in the face of heavy bombing. **But in Russia their problem is going to be more difficult than it has been elsewhere. A great deal will therefore depend on how extensively the Russian air force can harass the German lines of communication.**

Communications in Russia are also a difficulty. Roads and railways capable of bearing the loads needed by modern armies in the field are scarce. Then the actual operation of bombing is affected by the **density of the objectives. A bombing aeroplane goes out with a primary and a secondary objective and many have a third objective.** The idea is that the pilot visits the primary objective; but if the weather, or enemy action, or signs of mechanical trouble make it necessary, he can turn to the secondary objective and bomb that.

In planning the objectives the route of the bomber is the deciding factor. Obviously, if a German bomber is coming over England, it can be given a secondary objective which will be hardly less useful than the primary one. Our cities and industries are so closely packed that there are not many really large areas in which no objectives of any sort can be found.

But on the Russian front the objectives which would be regarded as suitable by the enemy **are relatively few and far between.** Some of the great Russian industrial centres are entirely out of reach of the ordinary German bombers working with their full bomb loads. And **the Germans are very miserly about their bombing,** in that they always try to make for objectives which are not too far away, and which will not therefore call for a large expenditure of fuel.

So one of the things on which the present battles will throw light is the shock-absorbing effect on air attack of immense spaces and widely scattered objectives.

Air attack is always expensive. The planning of a big raid alone is a big job, and the amount of material that has to be assembled before it takes place is surprising. Big bombs such as are used nowadays have to have special tackle for shifting them and for loading them into the aeroplanes.

So if a country is such that it would absorb part of its enemy's bombing effort without being noticiably effected itself, the power of air attack against that country is automatically reduced. **Russia occupies about a sixth of the earth's surface,** and although it has an enormous population its centres of industry, what may be called tho mainspring of its war

effort, are scattered. **It is not a good field for an aerial offensive.**

We do not yet know much about the air war in the East, and I think that we shall find a good deal of difficulty in getting full information. It is not a matter of whether Russia is ready to give it, but whether it can be assembled from all the points on that far flung front. Gradually we shall see how the air war goes.

All we know as yet is that the Germans have sent such strong forces to that front that they have to some extent reduced their strength in the West. And the Royal Air Force is seizing the opportunity to strike hard at Germany and German-occupied territory. That Western offensive may help a little to relieve the pressure on Russian front.

THE R. A. F.

The R. A. F. offensive is spreading in time, and occupying a larger proportion of the 24 hours than before. In the past we have not attempted to sustain any kind of air bombing attack on the enemy by daylight on this front.

The reason was that the casualties in this kind of attack are apt to be very heavy indeed. The Germans found that out last year. We knew it from the few experimental attacks made quite early in the war. We found that **the bomber cannot protect itself against a short range interceptor fighter by day.**

So when the Germans had plenty of interceptor fighters ranged against us in Occupied France, and when we had barely enough fighters to defend our own soil, it would obviously have been an error to attempt to launch daylight raids. Our day bomber fleet would have suffered too heavily to make the operations worth while.

But directly we knew that German air squadrons had been on the move some days before the actual attack on Russia began, **we started to supplement our very heavy night attacks with day attacks.** We have not sent over our day bombers unescorted. Powerful fighter formations have gone with them, or have swept the air in front of them clear of enemy fighters.

The results have been exceptionally good, and the enemy has suffered heavy losses. Such attacks of course are limited by the range of the fighters, which is much shorter than the range even of the day bomber.

But supposing the Royal Air Force found it possible to dominate the German Air Force in Occupied France to such an extent that German operations were seriously crippled, it might become possible to send over strong day bomber formations to attack objectives farther afield.

We might then be getting near to the time when we could subject targets in Germany to a 24-hour offensive. After all that is the final objective, to dominate the skies over all those areas where the Germans are to be found to such an extent that our bombers can operate in those places without heavy losses, and can maintain a really heavy attack on them.

We have attacked objectives in Germany by day. But we cannot hope to attack those objectives without

the cover of either darkness or clouds, until we hold absolute air supremacy over the whole area.

That is the air war as it is now being waged upon two fronts, in the East and in the West. Against the German Air Force in the East there stands the Russian Air Force. Against it in the West there stands the Royal Air Force. Neither the Russians nor ourselves will fail to make the best of the opportunities which are now offered. For once, the Germans may have to take as many blows as they can give.

AN ILLUMINATING DESPATCH.

STORY OF NAZI NEGOTIATIONS WITH RUSSIA.

"GUARANTEE" OF UKRAINE IN EXCHANGE FOR ITS CONTROL.

WHY RUSSIANS BROKE OFF NEGOTIATIONS.

*Ossian Goulding cabled to the **Daily Telegraph** from Stockholm on June, 29:*

WHEN Sir Stafford Cripps left Moscow for London, Ribbentrop, the German Foreign Minister, was negotiating with Molotov through the German Ambassador, Count von Schulenberg, for **a German guarantee of the Ukraine** for the duration of war, with control of the Ukraine oilfields and granaries under German experts. The negotiations had been in progress since March.

Sir Stafford Cripps informed Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Minister, that British information proved documentarily that the Nazis had planned an attack on Russia on June 1, but were reckoning on obtaining the Ukraine harvest first by the peaceful penetration methods which were successful in Bulgaria. After receiving this information, the Russians broke off the negotiations.

For this reason Marshal Timoshenko, the Soviet army commander, has **placed his greatest strength in the Ukraine** with orders to fight to the end, and to destroy barns, factories, growing crops and granaries systematically if forced to retreat.

This was the reason for the Russians' successful but costly counter-attack in Przemyse and Bessarabia while retreating to prepared lines in the Minsk sector.

This was the reason for the terrific bombardment of Constanza, the Rumanian Black Sea port, where a Nazi invasion fleet was gathered for a possible attack, supported by paratroops, against Odessa by sea. According to reports reaching Stockholm, an attack of this kind was made by the Germans without success.

To bolster up the southern front, where the Russians are using an advance force of 15 infantry divisions, eight Panzer divisions and five cavalry divisions with 2,000 tanks and 12,500 aeroplanes, the Germans are withdrawing their army of occupation from Serbia, replacing them with Hungarian troops which are considered ineffective for serious fighting.

An agreement on this point was reached to-day with the Hungarian Government.

The Nazis are experiencing further difficulties in the protectorate of **Bohemia**, where they have found it necessary to strengthen the garrison, tighten restrictions and impose a curfew.

A traveller from Prague informs me that there is the wildest jubilation there over the growth of a pan-Slavist movement against the Nazis.

The Germans have opened a combined attack by sea and air against the Soviet navel bases and airfields in **Estonia**, on the Baltiski and Tallinn coasts, and on the islands of Dagoe and Oesel.

One reason for this step is that the Russian resistance to the invader in the Baltic States has been unexpectedly bitter, and the German losses have been heavy enough to make an attack from the rear necessary.

Another reason is that the capture of these bases **would deprive the Soviet air force of bases at present used for attacks on Helsinki and Abo and the German troop concentrations in Finland**.

The German navy has been operating a strong force of E-boats and light torpedo craft off the Estonian coast against heavier Russian units.

It had orders to prepare the way for a landing from the air and sea of parachute troops and marines, to enable the capture of vital bases by lightning operations.

The rôle of the German forces in **Finland** depends on the progress of the Baltic campaign. At present these forces are immobilised by the strength of the Russian fortifications in Karelia, and a number of Red Army divisions on the north Finnish front which is reliably estimated to be 12 divisions.

When the Nazi advance from the Baltic States is held up as expected by the defences of Leningrad, these forces are expected to take the offensive in forming a Nazi pincers movement against that city.

As to the Finns, the strongly realistic Russians are under no illusions about Finland's declaration that hers is a purely defensive war. They know that 400,000 Finns are ready and eager for action as soon as the Soviet's strength in the north gives signs of weakening.

Both sides are thus preparing for the coming struggle, which will be fought out most probably in Karelia and on the north shores of Lake Ladoga.

On the **Arctic front** the Russians again have the situation under control, following an attempt by the Nazi Alpine regiment from Kirkenes to carry out a lightning thrust against Murmansk and cut the Murmansk-Leningrad railway.

The only other activity here was by German bombers, which carried out raids on the Soviet air forces' underground hangars in the Kola Peninsula headquarters of the fighters protecting Murmansk and the Red Arctic fleet.

But behind these more obvious incidents Russian tacticians are pushing ahead with a systematic campaign of organisation to meet the German offensive. Already on the second day of the war Viborg, the Finnish port now held by the Russians, was stripped of everything valuable.

Now the Russians have also set fire to and destroyed the whole vast Ensogutzeits, the biggest industrial district of oldFinl and after Tammerfors, and the centre of the Saima Valley power scheme.

A MISCALCULATION.

IF HITLER EXPECTS ECONOMIC BENEFITS IN RUSSIA, HOW FAR WILL HIS HOPES MATERIALISE?

WHAT TWO MONTHS' HOLD-UP OF ADVANCE WOULD INVOLVE?

by

The London Correspondent of the ***Yorkshire Post.***

HOW far Hitler's latest experiment in aggression was inspired by economic necessities, and how far by political aims, may be open to question. Germany, however, certainly hopes to derive some economic advantages from her attack on Russia, but a careful survey of the situation by an acknowledged authority on Russian trade affairs suggests that in this hope she will be deeply disappointed.

The conclusion of this expert with whom I talked is, that **unless** the Germans advance into Russian territory with extreme speed, and **unless** the Russians take the extremely improbable course, in the event of such an advance, of leaving intact their whole machinery of production, the **Nazis economic advantages during the next twelve months will be trivial.**

Should the German forces be successfully held, he said, Hitler's latest move must be disastrous to Germany. She would lose at once substantial supplies of essential commodities, that have been coming direct from Russia and from other countries through Vladivostok and the Trans-Siberian railway. Under the new conditions, in fact, Vladivostok which has hitherto been regarded as providing a leak in the British blockade, will constitute a heavy leak in the German counter-blockade.

Then the expert turned to the other possibility that Germany will be able to advance more or less deeply into Russia. His conclusion is that a hold-up for only six or eight weeks of the Nazi march into the Ukraine will deprive Germany of any part of this year's Russian wheat harvest.

As for Caucasian petroleum, "the amount Hitler gets, should his armies advance thus far, depends entirely on the conditions which they find in any occupied territory. The Germans have not got equipment which would enable them to restore in less than twelve months oil wells that had been thoroughly put out of action.

" The Russian policy of collectivising farms should handicap the Germans. The system depends largely on mechanised equipment and the centralised distribution of fuel. There is not sufficient horse-drawn equipment available to replace mechanised harvesters and ploughs, and **an elaborately centralised agricultural machine cannot be easily restored once it is disturbed.**

"If the Russian authorities chose to withdraw all the experts who are running the collectivised farms, Germany might have to provide as many as 250,000 men or women to take their places !

"Had Russian agriculture remained in the hands of peasants, the normal routine in farms could have been maintained far more easily. As it is, I estimate that in the first year after a successful invasion Russia's agriculture would not yield to Germany as much produce as she might have hoped for had she remained at peace with Russia.

" If the Germans reach the Urals, they may get some iron-ore, pig-iron and steel. But, even there, it will be necessary if the Russians are alert, to restore immobilised industrial machinery. Again problems of management will arise.

"**It is immensely to our advantage,**" the expert added, "**that the leakage of commodities to Germany by the Trans-Siberian railway should cease.** Some 400,000 tons of fats alone, mainly from Japan and Manchukuo have thus reached Germany annually.

"She has also been getting some rubber, and was hoping to get very much more. Lubricating and diesel oils reached Germany by the same channel, although cotton imports to Germany through or from Russia have recently been practically stopped, partly owing to the United States' action. Some 20,000 tons of cotton have crossed the frontier during the past twelve months."

COSMOPOLITANA.

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1. "I am certain that no Indian who has studied the record of Nazism in its godlessness, cruelty and all lack of faith and honour can have any doubt as to the duty to oppose, by all possible means, Nazism. and all it means, and unite for the defence of this great community."

(*General Sir Archibald Wavell, Commander-in-Chief in India, Simla, July 17.*)

2. "We will enter into no arrangement with Hitler and his gang, for not until the cancer of Nazism, is cut out of the body of Europe can health and peace return."

(*Sir Archibald Sinclair, July 19.*)

3. "I promise you that our people are determined, with your help to pull this thing off and to make an end of Hitler."

(*Lord Halifax, the British Ambassador to America, San Francisco, July 19.*)

4. "The 'V' sign is the syambol of the unconquerable will of the occupied territories and a portent of the fate awaiting the Nazi tyranny."

(*Mr. Winston Churchill, July 20.*)

5. "Not without many a struggle was *Pax Britannica* made to prevail, or India brought for the first as one country within her mighty confines."

(*Sir Denys Bray, B. B. C. Talks on India.*)

6. "England can choose anything, while Hitler is a prisoner of his own *Blitzkrieg* and may prove its final victim."

(*Mr. Samuel Grafton, in the New York Post, July 21.*)

7. "War, I admit, is no time for constitution building, but there is nothing like war work to bring all sorts and conditions together, and great though India's war effort is, Indian public men might make it greater still."

(*Sir Denys Bray, in a recent B. B. C. Talk.*)

Examples of Misleading Statements in Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East for the period July 7—13, 1941.

A.—BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH.

"PRETTY GENERAL."

ON July 8, Walt Mittler treated us to a topical talk with the title *Propaganda on Pretty General Lines.* Concluding a sob-stuff peroration on the poor, misguided British people, he said :—

"After all, the people of London are made of the same flesh and blood as the people of Berlin."

But not of the same spirit, Mr. Mittler ! And anyway, what would Julius Streicher say ?—a fair proportion of the United Kingdom's 300,000 Jews live in London !

MUSSOLINI'S "EMPIRE."

Rome (July 10) broadcast what amounted to a funeral oration on the Italian Army of nearly a quarter million that has "lost itself" in East Africa. The soldiers' "sacrifice" was described as "an everlasting testimonial of Italy's contribution in African territory for the final victory which the Allied Axis Powers will achieve."

Broadcasting from the same radio just three months ago, Signor Ansaldo said :—

"Never has the whole of Italy felt with such certainty that, in the long centuries to come, she will be mistress in Africa."

Now Italy is not even mistress in her own homeland. The German weekly paper *Das Reich* classifies Italy as one of the "occupied countries". **At a cost of half a million casualties, Mussolini has lost his empire and Nazi bailiffs are ensconced in his head office. The gambler is bankrupt.**

HAW HAW ON ICÉLAND.

"If Mr. Roosevelt scraps the Monroe Doctrine so flagrantly, if he deliberately goes beyond the Western Hemisphere in search of a *casus belli*, he might well be asked by his people to reconcile such conduct with the solemn pledges which he gave during the last Presidential election. It is interesting to note this new exposure of the democratic weapon, which seems to consist in promising people something, then, having been elected, giving them precisely the reverse."

—*Lord Haw Haw* (*Berlin, July 13*).

"What did Hitler promise the German people when he was "elected"? Certainly not war. But then, Hitler is no democrat.

AIR AID TO RUSSIA.

Berlin told us on July 10 that "The British air attacks on the Channel coast and open German towns, as for instance the old town of Munster, can in no way influence the great decision in the East."

R. A. F. aid to Russia consists mainly in the systematic blasting of communications behind the German lines. Munster, which the Germans choose to call an "open town", is an important railway centre, is used as an air base and includes a military barracks.

WAVELL ON VICTORY.

Berlin reported on July 8 an alleged interview with a representative of the *New York Times* in which General Wavell "openly admitted that Britain could not win this war". The German announcer went on to say that "Egyptain political circles were deeply impressed" by this statement.

Only five days previously, Premier Hussein Sirry Pasha of Egypt had written of Wavell in *Al Ahram* :—

"In critical hours he was always absolutely confident of victory and in his troops."

WAR AT SEA.

Commenting on the Australian Commerce Minister's decision to buy up all wheat surpluses in the country, Berlin (July 11) said this constituted an indirect admission of the Germany's success in the Battle of the Atlantic.

That Germany's efforts in this gigantic battle have shown relatively poor results is proved by the announcement that **only four per cent of all war material shipped from the United States to England in recent months has failed to reach its destination**.

It is also worth remembering, that every day Britain has at least 2,000 ships at sea, and more than 300 of these are in the danger zone. Yet the average weekly loss for February, March, April and May of this year was only 27 ships.

B.—BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES.

U. S. A.—GERMAN INTENTIONS.

Talking of the American move in Iceland, the Italians' Hindustani broadcast of July 10 says that Roosevelt produced the lame excuse that the Western Hemisphere was threatened by Germany. It is remembered, however, that on June 13 the Italian broadcaster in English to Great Britain and North America was so eager to deny even the possibility of an axis invasion of the U. S. A. that he went a little too far and said: "**Hitler and Mussolini are the last to attempt an American invasion at an unpropitious moment**". The moment when Germany would be ready to attack the U. S. A. was hinted at by Doctor Ley, the Nazi Labour leader in an article he published on June 6. "**In two years at the least**", he wrote, "**Germany and Italy will be unconquerable, and no power will be able to suppress them. Then over 300 million Europeans with their endless resources of coal, ore and materials of all kinds, will face 170 million Englishmen and Americans, whose resources are widely scattered over the face of the earth**".

OUT OF THEIR OWN MOUTHS.

Still seeking to convince a by no means credulous world that they are waging a holy crusade against Bolshevism, the Nazis' Hindustani, Persian and Arabic broadcasts of July 10 make a Norwegian paper say that just when "Europe" had launched a crusade against Russia, President Roosevelt stabbed her in the back. In a talk to Germans, however, Rear Admiral Luetzow did not trouble himself with this propaganda theme. He merely described the situation as being **a war by Germany to get the territory and property of Russia,** which in fact it is. Besides, the Italians let the cat out of the bag, when they rather tactlessly broadcast a **long account of Russia's wealth in grain, oil and manganese all of which, they said, would become available to the Axis.**

GERMAN RAIDS ON ALEXANDRIA.

Dr. Goebbels' Hindustani broadcast of July 8 plays up their raid on Alexandria on July 6, and says that they scored direct hits on a British aircraft ship, the harbour and the railway station. Actually, the German raid was directed against the civilian population of the town, killing two and wounding fourteen. Writing about an earlier German air-raid—and the Germans have been consistent in their indiscriminate bombing of civilians—the *Al Balagh*, a Cairo newspaper, remarked on June 13 :—" Axis airmen do not hesitate to bomb towns indiscriminately.................**The Axis planes did not venture to approach the British fleet in the harbour, but they poured their wrath on civilians** ".

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

LECTURE LIV.

1941—			
July	...27, Sunday ...	Town Hall	... 6.30 p. m.
		Vayalogam	... 6.00 p. m.
		Kudumiamalai	... 6.30 p. m.
	28, Monday ...	College (B) Tamil	... 10.15 a. m.
		Rani's High School	... 10.15 a. m.
		Nachandupatti	... 6.00 p. m.
		Virachilai	... 6.30 p. m.
	29, Tuesday ...	College (A) English	... 10.15 a. m.
		Tirugokarnam	... 5.30 p. m.
		Tirumayyam	... 6.00 p. m.
		Konapet	... 6.30 p. m.
	30, Wednesday	C. S. M. High School	... 10.00 a. m.
		Nallur	... 6.00 p. m.
		Mandayur	... 6.30 p. m.
	31, Thursday ...	Panayappatti	... 6.00 p. m.
		Rangiam	... 6.30 p. m.
August	... 1, Friday ...	Rajagiri	... 6.00 p. m.
		Viralimalai	... 6.30 p. m.

LECTURE LV.

	2, Saturday ...	Town Hall	... 6.30 p. m.
	3, Sunday ...	College (A) English	... 10.15 a. m.
		Tiruvappur	... 5.30 p. m.
		Alangudi	... 6.00 p. m.
		Rasiamangalam	... 6.30 p. m.
	4, Monday ...	College (B) Tamil	... 10.15 a. m.
		Rani's High School	... 10.15 a. m.
		Annavasal	... 6.00 p. m.
		Kilakkurichi	... 6.30 p. m.
	5, Tuesday ...	Perumanadu	... 6.00 p. m.
		Pulvayal	... 6.30 p. m.
	6, Wednesday	C. S. M. High School	... 10.00 a. m.
		Kulipirai	... 6.00 p. m.
		Sevalur	... 6.30 p. m.
	7, Thursday ...	Ramachandrapuram	... 6.00 p. m.
		Rayavaram	... 6.30 p. m.
	8, Friday ...	Valramanikkam	... 6.00 p. m.
		Yembal	... 6.30 p. m.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 1,000—26-7-41.